power from the Farakka super thermal power station and the Chukha hydro-electric project. The existing thermal stations are also being renovated and modernised to improve their generation. The increase in consumption of electricity depends on various factors including the rate of industrial and agricultural growth, and the extent of electrification in urban and rural areas.

Economy in postal departments

*207. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to close the functioning of some divisions in the various Postal Circles in the country as a measure of economy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The functioning of Postal Divisions has not been stopped as a measure of economy. However, the following postal Divisions were abolished w.e.f. 31.12.1985 as these were not justified as per the departmental standards.

1. West Krishna Division	Andhra Pradesh Circle.
2. Sri Kalahasti Division	
3. Chirala Division	
4. West Champaran Division	Bihar Circle
5. Yadgiri Division	Karnataka Circle
6. Jind Division	North-Western Circle
7. Orai Division	U. P. Circle.

Safety of power house

*210. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for the safety of power houses in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of incidents like fire and thefts which occurred in different power houses in the country during the last three years; and

(c) what was the total loss on account of these incidents during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Safety measures including fire prevention and control, are incorporated in the power station design lay out and engineering stage itself. The recommendations of a Committee appointed to suggest effective fire prevention and control measures in thermal stations also were communicated to the State authorities in 1985 for implementation. The Department of Power have reiterated from time to time instructions relating to the need to ensure safety and to inculcate security consciousness at all levels in power stations.

(b) and (c) There were seven major incidents of fire in thermal stations during the last three years, and isolated incidents of large thefts have also been reported. The total loss on account of the damage to plant and equipment due to these incidents of fire is estimated at about Rs. 72 crores.